
Modern Foreign Language Standards of Learning

Modern Foreign Language Level I

Course Description

Level I language courses focus on the development of students' communicative competence in the foreign language and their understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. Communicative competence is divided into three strands: speaking and writing as an interactive process in which students learn to communicate with another speaker of the language; reading and listening as a receptive process in which comprehension of texts in the foreign language is developed; and speaking and writing in a presentational context in which students are focused on organization of thoughts and awareness of their audience in delivering information. In Level I classes, the students learn to communicate in real-life contexts about topics that are meaningful to them. In order to develop the three areas of communicative competence, students are encouraged to use the foreign language as much as possible in all areas of study. Rather than isolating grammar in a separate strand, it is integrated into instruction according to the vocabulary and structures needed in the various situations in which students are required to function. Through the language learning process, students develop an understanding of how their own language is structured and how their own culture has unique aspects. An important component of language classes is the use of the language beyond the classroom in order to apply knowledge of the language in the real world. In many cases, this is accomplished through the integration of technology into the classroom. Technology is an important tool in accessing authentic information in the foreign language and in providing students the opportunity to interact with native speakers of the language.

Person-to-Person Communication

- MFLI.1 The student will exchange simple spoken and written information in the foreign language.
1. Use basic greetings, farewells, and expressions of courtesy both orally and in writing.
 2. Express likes and dislikes, requests, descriptions, and directions.
 3. Ask questions and provide responses based on self and familiar material, such as family members, personal belongings, school and leisure activities, time, and weather.
- MFLI.2 The student will demonstrate skills necessary to sustain brief oral and written exchanges in the foreign language using familiar phrases and sentences.
1. Initiate, participate in, and close a brief oral or written exchange in the foreign language with emphasis on the present time.
 2. Use formal and informal forms of address in familiar situations in the foreign language.
 3. Use gestures and simple paraphrasing to convey and comprehend messages.

Listening and Reading for Understanding

- MFLI.3 The student will understand simple spoken and written language based on familiar topics that are presented through a variety of media.
1. Identify the main ideas and some details when reading and listening in the foreign language.
 2. Comprehend simple, culturally authentic announcements, messages, and advertisements that use familiar vocabulary and grammatical structures in the foreign language.
 3. Understand simple instructions in the foreign language, such as classroom procedures or basic computer terminology.

- MFLI.4 The student will use verbal and non-verbal cues to understand simple spoken and written messages in the foreign language.
1. Differentiate among statements, questions, and exclamations.
 2. Use basic gestures, body language, and intonation to clarify the message.

Oral and Written Presentation

- MFLI.5 The student will present orally and in writing information in the foreign language that contains a variety of familiar vocabulary, phrases, and structural patterns.
1. Present in the foreign language information gathered from informal conversations, class presentations, interviews, readings, and/or a variety of media sources.
 2. Describe in the foreign language basic familiar information, such as self, family members and others, events, interests, school, recreational activities, and personal belongings with emphasis on control of the present tense.
 3. Demonstrate increasing attention to accuracy in intonation and pronunciation in the foreign language especially when presenting prepared material orally.
 4. Demonstrate increasing attention to accuracy in word order, punctuation, accents and other diacritical marks, and spelling when writing in the foreign language.
- MFLI.6 The student will present rehearsed material in the foreign language, including brief narratives, monologues, dialogues, poetry, and/or songs.
1. Use appropriate verbal and nonverbal techniques, such as voice inflection, gestures, and facial expression.
 2. Communicate ideas in an organized manner using appropriate visual and/or technological support.

Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products

- MFLI.7 The student will develop an awareness of perspectives, practices, and products of the cultures where the foreign language is spoken.
1. Identify some viewpoints of the cultures, such as those relating to time, education, transportation, and the role of family members.
 2. Identify some customs and traditions of the cultures, such as greetings, celebrations, holiday practices, and forms of address that demonstrate politeness.
 3. Identify some historical and contemporary individuals associated with important events from the cultures studied.
 4. Identify some products of the cultures, such as natural and manufactured items, creative and fine arts, recreation and pastimes, dwellings, language, and symbols.
- MFLI.8 The student will recognize that perspectives, practices and products of the cultures studied are interrelated.
1. Recognize that the cultures studied are shaped by viewpoints, customs/traditions, and products of speakers of the language.
 2. Identify major cities and geographical features and why they are significant in the cultures studied.

Making Connections through Language

- MFLI.9 The student will recognize how information acquired in the study of the foreign language and information acquired in other subjects reinforce one another.
1. Identify examples of vocabulary, phrases, proverbs, and symbols from the foreign language that are used in other subjects.
 2. Relate content from other subject areas to topics discussed in the foreign language class, such as current events from countries where the language is spoken or the influence of foreign explorers and settlers on various regions of the United States.

Cultural and Linguistic Comparisons

- MFLI.10 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the significance of culture through comparisons between the cultures studied and the cultures of the United States.
1. Compare patterns of behavior and interaction in the United States with those of the cultures studied.
 2. Demonstrate an awareness that social practices and personal interactions differ among cultures.
 3. Demonstrate an awareness of unique elements of the student's own culture.
- MFLI.11 The student will compare basic elements of the foreign language to the English language.
1. Recognize differences in sound systems, writing systems, cognates, gender, and level-appropriate idioms.
 2. Recognize basic sound distinctions and intonation patterns and their effect on communicating meaning.

Communication across Communities

- MFLI.12 The student will identify situations in which foreign language skills and cultural knowledge may be applied beyond the classroom setting for recreational, educational, and occupational purposes.
1. Identify examples of the foreign language and the cultures studied that are evident in and through media, entertainment, and technology.
 2. Identify resources, such as individuals and organizations accessible through the community or the Internet, that provide basic cultural information about the cultures studied.

Modern Foreign Language Level II

Course Description

In Level II foreign language, students continue to develop their proficiency in the three modes of communicative competence: interacting with other speakers of the language, understanding oral and written messages in the foreign language, and making oral and written presentations in the foreign language. They begin to show a greater level of accuracy when using basic language structures and are exposed to more complex features of the language. They continue to focus on communicating about their immediate world and daily life activities. They read material on familiar topics and write short, directed compositions. Emphasis continues to be placed on the use of the foreign language in the classroom as well as on the use of authentic materials to learn about the culture.

Person-to-Person Communication

- MFLII.1 The student will exchange spoken and written information and ideas in the foreign language.
1. Ask questions and provide responses based on self, others, and the immediate environment, such as exchanges concerning people and things, plans and events, feelings and emotions, and direction and location.
 2. Give and follow basic instructions and directions in the foreign language.
- MFLII.2 The student will demonstrate skills necessary to initiate, sustain, and close brief oral and written exchanges in the foreign language using familiar and recombined phrases and sentences.
1. Participate in brief oral and written exchanges that reflect present as well as past and future time.
 2. Use simple paraphrasing and non-verbal behaviors to convey and comprehend messages.

Listening and Reading for Understanding

- MFLII.3 The student will understand basic spoken and written language based on new topics in a familiar context that are presented through a variety of media.
1. Understand main ideas and identify essential details when reading and listening in the foreign language.
 2. Understand culturally authentic announcements, messages, and advertisements that use some new as well as familiar information in the foreign language.
 3. Understand and follow simple instructions in consumer and informational materials in the foreign language, such as those for following recipes or using computers.
- MFLII.4 The student will use verbal and non-verbal cues to interpret spoken and written texts in the foreign language.
1. Differentiate among increasingly complex statements, questions, and exclamations.
 2. Interpret gestures, body language, and intonation in order to clarify the message.

Oral and Written Presentation

- MFLII.5 The student will present orally and in writing information in the foreign language that combines learned as well as original language in simple sentences and paragraphs.
1. Relate with some detail the main ideas from level-appropriate print or non-print materials in the foreign language.
 2. Present information in the foreign language using structures that reflect present as well as past and future time.
 3. Demonstrate attention to accuracy in intonation and pronunciation when speaking the foreign language.
 4. Demonstrate attention to accuracy in word order, punctuation, accents and other diacritical marks, and spelling when writing in the foreign language.
- MFLII.6 The student will present rehearsed and unrehearsed material in the foreign language including skits, poems, plays, short narratives, and/or songs.
1. Use appropriate verbal and nonverbal techniques, such as voice inflection, gestures, and facial expression.
 2. Communicate ideas in an organized manner using appropriate visual and/or technological support.

Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products

- MFLII.7 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, practices, and products of the cultures studied and how they are interrelated.
1. Participate in real or simulated cultural events, such as family activities and holiday celebrations.
 2. Identify and discuss patterns of behavior typically associated with the cultures, such as observance of business practices and celebration of national holidays.
 3. Examine the influence of the geography of the countries studied on cultural elements, such as food, clothing, dwellings, transportation, language, and art.

Making Connections through Language

- MFLII.8 The student will use information acquired in the study of the foreign language and information acquired in other subject areas to reinforce one another.
1. Give examples of the influence of the foreign language and cultures in other subject areas, such as foreign words used in the English language or contributions of important mathematicians and scientists from countries where the language is spoken.
 2. Relate information acquired in other subjects to topics discussed in the foreign language class, such as use of the metric system for measuring distance, volume, and weight or how modes of transportation reflect the economy and geography of the countries where the language is spoken.

Cultural and Linguistic Comparisons

- MFLII.9 The student will demonstrate an understanding of cultural similarities and differences between the cultures studied and those of the United States.
1. Identify similarities and differences of traditions, such as holidays, foods, family, and celebrations.
 2. Identify similarities and differences of the geography of countries where the foreign language is used and the United States and their impact on aspects of culture, such as clothing, foods, transportation, dwellings, recreation, and the arts.
- MFLII.10 The student will develop a better understanding of the English language through the study of the foreign language.
1. Recognize critical sound distinctions and intonation in the foreign and English languages in communicating meaning.
 2. Compare vocabulary usage and structural patterns of the foreign language and English.
 3. Use level-appropriate idiomatic expressions in the foreign language.

Communication across Communities

- MFLII.11 The student will develop and apply foreign language skills and cultural knowledge in opportunities beyond the classroom setting for recreational, educational, and occupational purposes.
1. Illustrate how the foreign language and cultures are evident in and through media, entertainment, and technology.
 2. Locate and use resources in the foreign language, such as individuals and organizations accessible through the community or the Internet, to reinforce basic cultural knowledge.

Modern Foreign Language Level III

Course Description

In Level III foreign language, students continue to develop their proficiency in the three modes of communicative competence: interacting with other speakers of the language, understanding oral and written messages in the foreign language, and making oral and written presentations in the foreign language. They communicate using more complex structures in the language on a variety of topics, moving from concrete to more abstract concepts. They comprehend the main ideas of the authentic materials that they read and hear and are able to identify significant details when the topics are familiar. The foreign language is used almost exclusively in the class as students develop the ability to discuss topics related to historical and contemporary events and issues.

Person-to-Person Communication

- MFLIII.1 The student will engage in original and spontaneous oral and written communications in the foreign language.
1. Express own opinions, preferences, and desires, and elicit those of others.
 2. Use level-appropriate vocabulary and structures to express ideas about topics and events found in a variety of print and non-print sources in the foreign language.
- MFLIII.2 The student will demonstrate skills necessary to initiate, sustain, and close oral and written exchanges in the foreign language, applying familiar vocabulary and structures to new situations.
1. Participate in sustained exchanges that reflect past, present, and future time.
 2. Exchange detailed information in the foreign language via conversations, notes, letters, or e-mail on familiar topics.
 3. Use paraphrasing, circumlocution, and non-verbal behaviors to convey and comprehend messages in level-appropriate language.

Listening and Reading for Understanding

- MFLIII.3 The student will comprehend spoken and written language based on new topics in familiar as well as unfamiliar contexts that are presented through a variety of media.
1. Identify main ideas and pertinent details when reading or listening to passages, such as live and recorded conversations, short lectures, reports, and literary selections in the foreign language.
 2. Understand culturally authentic materials that use new as well as familiar information in the foreign language.
 3. Understand and follow instructions presented in consumer and informational materials in the foreign language, such as those needed to understand a train schedule or to use the Internet.

Oral and Written Presentation

- MFLIII.4 The student will present orally and in writing information in the foreign language that combines learned as well as original language in increasingly complex sentences and paragraphs.
1. Summarize and communicate main ideas and supporting details in the foreign language orally and in writing from a variety of authentic language materials.
 2. Use past, present, and future time frames, word order, and other level-appropriate language structures with increasing accuracy.
- MFLIII.5 The student will present student-created as well as culturally authentic stories, poems, and/or skits in the foreign language.
1. Produce well-organized spoken and written presentations appropriate to the type of audience and the purpose of the presentation.
 2. Use appropriate verbal and non-verbal presentational techniques including visual aids and/or technological support.

Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products

- MFLIII.6 The student will discuss the interrelationship among the perspectives, practices, and products of the cultures studied.
1. Examine how and why products such as natural and manufactured items, the arts, recreation and pastimes, language and symbols reflect practices and perspectives in the cultures studied.
 2. Discuss how the viewpoints of people who speak the foreign language are reflected in their practices and products, such as political systems, art and architecture, music, and literature.
 3. Investigate the role of geography in the history and development of the cultures studied.

Making Connections through Language

- MFLIII.7 The student will reinforce and broaden his/her knowledge of connections between the foreign language and other subject areas including language arts, science, history and social science, mathematics, physical education, health, and/or the arts.
1. Identify how the foreign language and cultures are found in other subject areas through various topics, such as terminology specific to the content areas.
 2. Relate topics studied in other subject areas to those studied in the foreign language class, such as issues related to the environment or the contributions of political, arts, or sports figures from countries where the language is spoken, to the world.

Cultural and Linguistic Comparisons

- MFLIII.8 The student will discuss in the foreign language why similarities and differences exist within and among cultures.
1. Use level-appropriate language to discuss the influences of historical and contemporary events and issues on the relationships between countries where the foreign language is spoken and the United States.
 2. Compare aspects of the cultures studied, such as language, clothing, foods, dwellings, and recreation, with those of other cultures.

- MFLIII.9 The student will strengthen his/her knowledge of the English language through the study and analysis of increasingly complex elements of the foreign language.
1. Demonstrate understanding that language and meaning do not transfer directly from one language to another.
 2. Demonstrate understanding that vocabulary, linguistic structures, and tense usage in English differ from those of the language studied.

Communication across Communities

- MFLIII.10 The student will improve foreign language skills and expand cultural understanding by accessing information beyond the classroom setting for recreational, educational, and occupational purposes.
1. Expand foreign language skills and cultural knowledge through the use of media, entertainment, and technology.
 2. Locate and use resources in the foreign language, such as individuals and organizations accessible through the community or the Internet, to broaden cultural understanding.

Modern Foreign Language Level IV

Course Description

In Level IV foreign language, students continue to develop their proficiency in the three modes of communicative competence: interacting with other speakers of the language, understanding oral and written messages in the foreign language, and making oral and written presentations in the foreign language. They are able to exchange and support opinions on a variety of topics related to contemporary and historical events and issues. They comprehend spoken and written texts from a variety of authentic sources as well as produce compositions containing well-developed ideas on various topics. Students use the foreign language to access information in other subject areas and to compare and contrast cultural elements in the countries where the language is spoken with their own.

Person-to-Person Communication

- MFLIV.1 The student will exchange a wide variety of information orally and in writing in the foreign language on various topics related to contemporary and historical events and issues.
1. Express and support opinions in the foreign language, and elicit those of others.
 2. Exchange with others personal reactions in the foreign language to spoken and written information related to the cultures studied.
 3. Exchange information in the foreign language from outside sources such as newspapers, magazines, broadcasts, or the Internet.
- MFLIV.2 The student will demonstrate skills necessary to sustain extended oral and written exchanges in the foreign language.
1. Use a full range of level-appropriate vocabulary, structures, and past, present, and future time frames.
 2. Exchange ideas clearly in the foreign language based on level-appropriate material.
 3. Use paraphrasing, circumlocution, and other creative means to express and comprehend ideas in the foreign language.

Listening and Reading for Understanding

- MFLIV.3 The student will comprehend spoken and written language found in a variety of authentic sources that have been prepared for various purposes.
1. Identify various elements in spoken and written texts in the foreign language, such as plot, theme, setting, and characters.
 2. Understand some subtleties of meaning, such as intent, humor, and tone, in a variety of level-appropriate works in the foreign language that are culturally authentic, such as radio and television segments or literary passages.
 3. Understand and follow instructions presented in spoken and written consumer and informational materials in the foreign language, such as those for completing a customs declaration or creating a Web page.

Oral and Written Presentation

- MFLIV.4 The student will relate information in the foreign language that combines learned as well as original language in oral and written presentations of extended length and complexity.
1. Deliver presentations in the foreign language containing well-developed ideas on a variety of topics with minimal errors in spelling, punctuation, and pronunciation in familiar vocabulary and language structures.
 2. Use style, language, and tone appropriate to the audience and the purpose of the presentation.
- MFLIV.5 The student will present or perform in the foreign language both student-created and culturally authentic essays, poetry, plays, and/or stories.
1. Produce well-organized presentations in the foreign language using appropriate visual aids and/or technological support.
 2. Use appropriate verbal and non-verbal presentational techniques.

Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products

- MFLIV.6 The student will discuss in the foreign language how various perspectives reflect the practices and products of the cultures studied.
1. Discuss in the foreign language how topics such as educational systems and business practices illustrate the viewpoints, patterns of behavior, and products of the cultures.
 2. Engage in real-life or simulated situations that demonstrate an understanding of culturally appropriate practices.

Making Connections through Language

- MFLIV.7 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the connections between content studied in the foreign language class and in other subject areas.
1. Discuss how the foreign language and cultures are found in other subject areas through various topics, such as legal and political systems and world literature.
 2. Use level-appropriate language to relate topics discussed in other subject areas to those discussed in the foreign language class, such as foreign authors and artists or political and historical events that involve countries where the foreign language is spoken.

Cultural and Linguistic Comparisons

- MFLIV.8 The student will use the foreign language at an appropriate level to discuss the effects of cultural similarities and differences on social, economic, and political relationships in the global community.
1. Understand and discuss in the foreign language the role of culture in the development of relationships between the United States and countries where the foreign language is spoken.
 2. Discuss how the United States is viewed by members of cultures where the foreign language is spoken and why.
 3. Recognize the existence of local, regional, and national differences in the countries where the foreign language is spoken and in the United States.

- MFLIV.9 The student will expand his/her understanding of the English language through the study and analysis of increasingly complex elements of the foreign language.
1. Recognize the existence of local, regional, and national differences in sound systems, pronunciation, vocabulary, and usage in countries where the foreign language is spoken and in the United States.
 2. Compare linguistic elements of the foreign language and English, such as time, tense, and mood, and understand how each language uses different grammatical structures to express time and tense relationships.

Communication across Communities

- MFLIV.10 The student will apply language skills and cultural understanding in opportunities beyond the classroom setting for recreational, educational, and occupational purposes.
1. Discuss in the foreign language information obtained in and through media, entertainment, and technology.
 2. Locate and use resources in the foreign language, such as individuals and organizations accessible through the community or the Internet, to enhance cultural understanding.

